

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MADRID IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 136338

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SP, US

SUBJECT: JUNTA DEMOCRATICA APPEARANCE IN CONGRESSIONAL
CONFERENCE

1. UNDER SPONSORSHIP OF 15 SENATORS AND 25 REPRESENTATIVES,
A CONGRESSIONAL CONFERENCE ON SPAIN AND US POLICY WAS HELD
JUNE 10 IN HOUSE CAUCUS ROOM. FORMER AMBASSADOR RICHARD
PEDERSEN ACTED AS MODERATOR, WITH REPRESENTATIVE ANDREW
MAGUIRE (D-NJ) AS CHAIRMAN. THE CONFERENCE ITSELF WAS
ORGANIZED BY THE FUND FOR NEW PRIORITIES IN AMERICA. ONLY
5-6 CONGRESSMEN ACTUALLY TOOK PART IN CONFERENCE.

2. INVITATIONS TO PARTICIPATE WERE SENT TO WIDE RANGE OF
ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS, ACADEMICS, AND OTHERS. AFTER DUE
CONSIDERATION OF CONGRESSIONAL ASPECT, DEPARTMENT WAS
REPRESENTED BY DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY LAINGEN. IN THE
EVENT, US PARTICIPANTS WERE SUPPLE-
MENTED BY REPRESENTATIVES
OF JUNTA DEMOCRATICA, INCLUDING CALVO SERER AND JOSE
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VIDAL-BENEYTO. (FULL LIST OF PARTICIPANTS AND CONFERENCE

AGENDA WILL BE POUCHED TO POLITICAL SECTION).

3. DISCUSSION AT CONFERENCE WAS REGRETTABLY ONE-SIDED, WITH MOST ACADEMICS AND SPANISH OPPOSITION TYPES BELABORING US POLICY TOWARD SPAIN AS CRUCIAL ELEMENT IN PREVENTING BLOOM OF DEMOCRACY FROM BURSTING FORTH. BASE AGREEMENT AND POLICY TOWARD SPAIN AS CRUCIAL ELEMENT IN PREVENTING BLOOM OF DEMOCRACY FROM BURSTING FORTH. BASE AGREEMENT AND DEFENSE COOPERATION WERE SIMILARLY PORTRAYED AS RELICS OF COLD WAR WHICH SHOULD BE ABANDONED. FOR RECORD, LAINGEN INTERVENED TO DESCRIBE BROAD CONTEXT OF US INTERESTS IN SPAIN AND SPANISH ROLE IN WESTERN DEFENSE, NOTING THAT US POLICY DESIGNED TO FURTHER ABIDING US INTERESTS AND NOT TO SUPPORT ANY GIVEN GOVERNMENT. LAINGEN ALSO NOTED--AS DID PROFESSOR STANLEY PAYNE--THAT JUNTA DEMOCRATICA WAS FORMED BY SPANISH COMMUNIT PARTY AND DID NOT HAVE SUPPORT OF MAJOR DEMOCRATIC OPPOSITION GROUPS IN SPAIN; HE ALSO REMINDED CONFERENCE THAT SPANISH OPINIONS COULD NOT BE JUDGED SOLELY ON BASIS OF COMMENTS BY MEMBERS OF JUNTA.

4. SPANISH AMBASSADOR ALBA WAS INVITED BUT DECLINED TO ATTEND, SENDING POLITICAL COUNSELOR ZULUETA TO OBSERVE. ALBA LATER REACTED NEGATIVELY TO ENTIRE IDEA OF CONFERENCE, ASKING WHY USG COULD PERMIT SERER TO TAKE PART. HE WAS PARTICULARLY INCENSED BY CRITICAL COMMENTS BY OPPOSITION ABOUT JUAN CARLOS AS FUTURE KING.

5. COMMENT: DEPT HAS DISCUSSED CONFERENCE MAKE-UP WITH MAGUIRE AND HIS STAFF TO POINT OUT LACK OF OBJECTIVITY AND BALANCE RESULTING FROM FAILURE TO INSURE ADEQUATE REPRESENTATION OF SPANISH VIEWS. CONGRESSIONAL PARTICIPANTS ARE APPARENTLY AWARE OF CONFERENCE SHORTCOMINGS AND ARE CONSIDERING HOW TO DEVELOP BETTER BALANCE IN WRITTEN RECORD TO BE RELEASED LATER. DEPT IS ALSO CONSIDERING HOW BEST TO DISSEMINATE BACKGROUND INFO ON JUNTA DEMOCRATICA TO TRY TO AVOID SUCH SITUATIONS IN FUTURE. DEPT HAS INFORMED MAGUIRE AND SPANISH EMBASSY THAT CALVO WOULD NOT BE RECEIVED IN DEPT. KISSINGER

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